

VZCZCXRO7875
OO RUEHPA
DE RUEHOS #0116 0451634
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 141634Z FEB 07
FM AMCONSUL LAGOS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8520
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA PRIORITY 8348
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY 0151
RUEHCD/AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ PRIORITY 0131
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY 0134
RUEHSO/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO PRIORITY 0148
RULSDMK/DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAHL/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH AFB UK PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 000116

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/W, INR/AA, DS/IP/AF, DS/ICI/PII, DS/DSS/OSAC
WARSAW FOR LISA PIASCIK
CIUDAD JUAREZ FOR DONNA BLAIR
ISTANBUL FOR TASHAWNA SMITH
SAO PAULO FOR ANDREW WITHERSPOON
DOE FOR GPERSON, CGAY
TREASURY FOR ASEVERENS, SRENENDER, DFIELD
COMMERCE FOR KBURRESS
STATE PASS USTR FOR ASST USTR FLISER
STATE PASS TRANSPORTATION FOR MARAD
STATE PASS OPIC FOR ZHAN AND MSTUCKART
STATE PASS TDA FOR NCABOT
STATE PASS EXIM FOR JRICHTER
STATE PASS USAID FOR GWEYNAND AND SLAWAETZ

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/14/2017

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [EPET](#) [KDEM](#) [NI](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: SITREP 15: NO SSS CONTACT WITH AMCIT; FILIPINO
HOSTAGES RELEASE CONFIRMED

REF: A. LAGOS 110

[1](#)B. LAGOS 87

Classified By: Consul General Brian L. Browne for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

[1](#)1. (C) John Walker of Control Risks Group told the February 14 Pivot-GIS Hostage Crisis Group that he was unable to speak to Rivers State Security Service (SSS) on February 13. Walker speculated SSS may have been working on the February 13 release of 24 Filipino hostages. American citizen Bill Graham and Nigerian national Ezekiel Akwa remain hostages. No proof of life has been given for either hostage since British national Neil Mirrlees's release on February 7.

[1](#)2. (C) Pivot employee Wole Osinupebi told the Pivot-GIS Hostage Group that Graham's wife was frustrated by the lack of progress in his release and threatened on February 13 to speak critically of Pivot, her husband's employer, to the press. Walker was able to calm her, reminding her the militants, not the company, were responsible for this ordeal and the company, along with the government, was working on his release.

[1](#)3. (C) Consul General of the Philippines confirmed to Poloff the February 13 release of 24 Filipinos held hostage for 24 days. The Consul General said the hostages were released in Warri, Delta State and will most likely travel by bus to

Abuja. They will depart for the Philippines on February 17. The Consul General said there are approximately 2,800 Filipinos still working in the Niger Delta.

14. (C) We have heard unconfirmed reports that ransom demands made by the kidnappers of Graham and Akwa may have been leaked to the public and perhaps the press. This would put GON negotiations in an awkward position for it would lend credence to the impression the GON was susceptible to ransom--which would mean the GON was acting contrary to its own stated policy. SSS previously has warned that any leak of this ransom information could result in the arrest of Pivot employee Wole Osinubebi, who they suspect as being the most probable author of any such disclosure. (Ref B)
BROWNE